

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: The Fight

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1100138.000

Medium: Console Game

Distributor: Sony Computer Entertainment New Zealand

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Secretary for Internal Affairs

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Contains violence.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 24 March 2011

Date of direction to issue a label: 24 March 2011

	Components	Running time
Game:	The Fight	
Total running time:		

Summary of reasons for decision:

The console game was submitted by an Inspector of Publications for the Secretary of Internal Affairs under s13(1)(b) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The Film and Video Labelling Body cross-rated the game as M from the Australian classification, but the Inspector was concerned that the game contains material that could warrant an age-based restriction.

"The Fight" is a street-fighting simulator game formatted for the PlayStation 3 console, with a

Move sensor. The Move sensor is a webcam-style peripheral which enables players to interact with the game through motion-sensing and game controllers in real-life 3D space. Following an extensive tutorial, the game progresses to a fighting competition where the player engages in bare-knuckle and one-on-one bouts against opponents. The repetitive nature of this game involving simulated fighting for the purpose of entertainment, is likely to inure children and young teenagers to this type of violence. This is exacerbated by the player's active engagement in using the PlayStation Move motion-sensing controllers to simulate striking opponents during the fights. Older teenagers and adults are likely to recognise how artificial the scenarios are.

The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression as provided by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications of this type be restricted to an appropriate age group.